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FEBRUARY 1935

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HOW THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU SERVES THE INTEREST OF AMERICAN CHILDREN

BY
KATHARINE F. LENROOT, CHIEF
UNITED STATES CHILDREN'S BUREAU

From time to time, visitors who come to the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor are puzzled by the sight of busy people sitting at office desks. "But where are the children?" they often ask.

To all such questions the answer is the same. The Children's Bureau is not a glorified day nursery, but a fact-finding agency created by Congress in 1912 to serve the interests of American childhood. The functions of the Bureau are to study and report on matters pertaining to the welfare of children. It is especially required to "investigate the questions of infant mortality, the birth rate, orphanage, juvenile courts, desertion, dangerous occupations, accidents and diseases of children, and employment legislation affecting children in the several States and territories."

The work of the Bureau leads to city slums and country cabins, into crowded streets and well-ordered playgrounds, to factories and mines, into fatherless homes, and into children's courts. The facts about children which are gathered by the Bureau are made available to all those who want to help provide for our children that equality of opportunity which we have long considered to be their American birthright.

The Children's Bureau is called upon to render services to parents, to child welfare experts, as well as to the various agencies, public and private, which are concerned with child welfare. These services vary from simple advice to puzzled mothers on problems of child feeding or habit training to cooperating with official State agencies in planning adequate legislation pertaining to the welfare and protection of American childhood.

The Bureau concerns itself with problems of children in industry, child and maternal health, social service (particularly the problems of dependency, neglect, physical and mental handicaps), and delinquency. The data gathered by the Bureau are published in reports and bulletins. The most popular of these is a series of bulletins which deal with such subjects as prenatal care, infant care, child care, and guidance of boys and girls of adolescent age. The object of this series is to bring thoroughly reliable yet simple information to any home within reach of the postman. The bulletin "Infant Care" is known as "Uncle Sam's best seller" because it has outstripped in circulation any bulletin issued by the Government.

During the last few years the Children's Bureau has concentrated its efforts upon measures for the protection of children and young people from the effects of the depression. The mushroom growth of unregulated and fly-by-night industries in which

children and young people were exploited for long hours at miserably low wages was a direct product of the depression. In the spring of 1933 the whole nation was shocked by the so-called "baby strike" in Pennsylvania. This strike of children in the shirt-making industry, who were working long hours at a miserably low wage, brought to a climax the unhealthy condition of child labor exploitation in the midst of great adult unemployment.

To overcome and prevent such exploitation of child labor as prevailed in many sweated industries prior to 1933, the Children's Bureau is actively cooperating with national and State agencies in the establishment and in the enforcement of child labor standards and regulations provided by nearly 600 codes under the National Industrial Recovery Act. The ratification of the child labor amendment will make permanent the great gains that have been accomplished.

WHY THE CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT SHOULD BE RATIFIED

"It is my desire that the advances attained through the N. R. A. be made permanent. In the child-labor field the obvious method of maintaining the present gains is through ratification of the Child-Labor Amendment. I hope this may be achieved."

-- President Roosevelt, November 8, 1934

The passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act in the summer of 1933 brought a change in the conditions of child labor which has been described as the most progressive since the introduction of power machinery. The cotton-textile code, signed in July 1933, was the first code to incorporate a provision prohibiting outright the employment of any person under 16 years of age. Nearly 600 codes have since followed the precedent set by the cotton-textile industry.

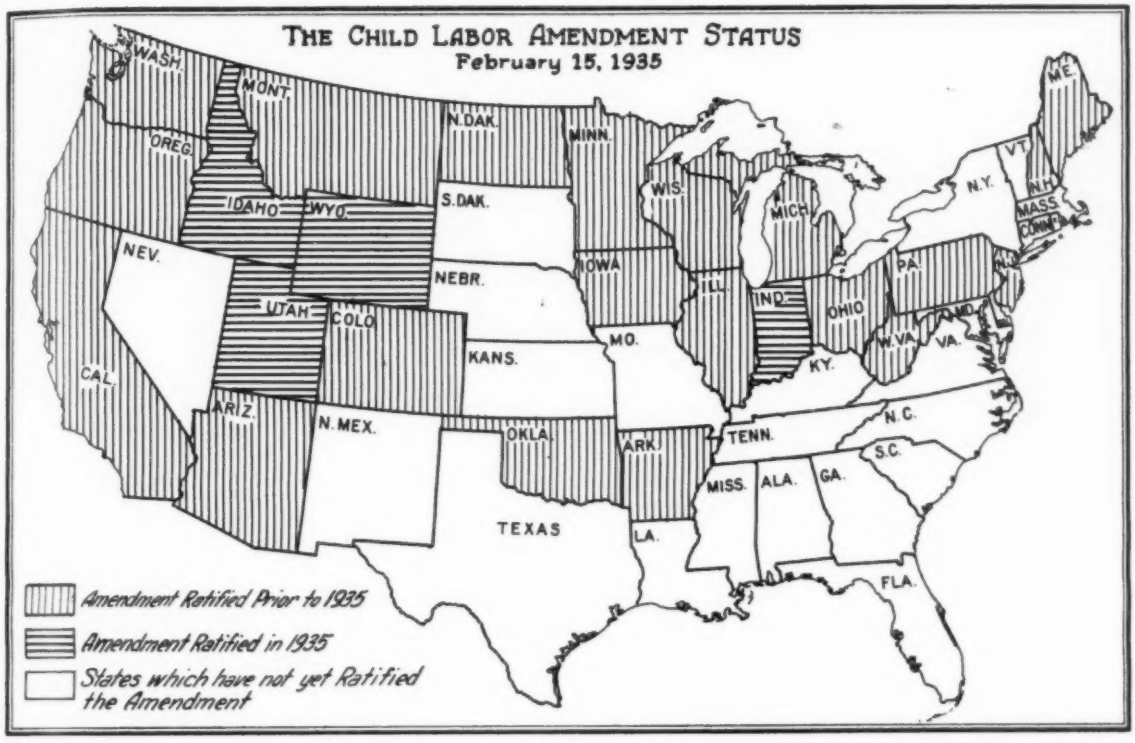
But child labor is not yet a thing of the past. The N. R. A. has as yet no permanent status. Not all industries are under codes and some industries which have codes have not eliminated child labor. Children are still to be found employed in large numbers in street trades, industrialized agriculture, and other work which the codes cannot or have not reached. The great difference between the code-minimum age of 16 years and the 14-year minimum still set by the child labor laws in a majority of States is the weakest point in the whole system of child labor protection. It is one of the outstanding reasons why so much emphasis is being placed on efforts to secure ratification of the child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution.

This amendment does not in itself regulate or prohibit the employment of children but is an enabling act which will give Congress authority to pass a law regulating or prohibiting child labor. The amendment reads:

"Section 1. The Congress shall have power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age.

"Sec. 2. The power of the several States is unimpaired by this article except that the operation of State laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by the Congress."

The need for a speedy adoption of the child labor amendment is clearly set forth in the following statement of the Secretary of Labor:



"The move for ratification of the child labor amendment must go on. It has been my experience that when industry improves, employment of children increases. We should guard against any possible return of such a condition and we can best do that by passing the Federal amendment. This is the time to make permanent, through the amendment, a beneficial change in the standards so as to keep boys and girls out of the channels of industry and give them the chance in life to which they are entitled."

WAGES AND EARNINGS OF COTTON-TEXTILE WORKERS

Hourly wages of cotton-goods workers in August 1934 were nearly 60 percent higher than in July 1933. However, there was no appreciable change in their weekly earnings. Real earnings of male workers were lower in August 1934 than in July 1933.

These were the outstanding facts disclosed in the recent cotton-textile report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The survey, made in accordance with the President's Executive Order of September 26, 1934, upon the termination of the general strike in the textile industry, analyzed pay-roll records in mills employing approximately 100,000 workers in August 1934, which is about one-quarter of the workers in the industry. For July 1933, prior to the adoption of the textile code, a smaller but still representative sample covering 38,000 workers was taken.

HOURLY WAGES

For all workers in the industry, North and South, the average wage advanced from approximately 22 cents per hour in July 1933 to 35 cents per hour in August 1934, after the cotton-textile code was adopted. This is an increase of 59 percent.

Male workers in the North made 42 cents per hour in August 1934, or 49 percent more than their 28-cent average for July 1933. Hourly wages of female workers in the North increased 61 percent.

In the South, male workers earned 34 cents in August 1934, an increase of 70 percent over July 1933. During the same period hourly earnings for female workers in the South advanced 100 percent, from an average of 16 cents per hour in July 1933 to 32 cents in August 1934.

Average wage rates for all workers in the cotton-textile industry in August 1934 varied from a low of 22½ cents for Negro female laborers in the South to a high of 68½ cents for foremen in the North. In July 1933 the corresponding wage range was from 10½ to 50½ cents.

The lower-paid occupations showed the largest hourly wage increases resulting from the code. Since the upper grades of workers did not secure increases proportionate to those received by the less skilled workers, the differences between wages for different skills were reduced. Occupations in the South, with the lowest hourly wage rates of 16 to 18 cents before the code, received the largest increases, 80 to 100 percent. Occupations paying on the average 18 to 22 cents increased 70 to 80 percent; occupations paying 22 to 28 cents increased 60 to 70 percent; and occupations averaging as high as 29 cents or more received increases of about 50 percent.

Larger proportions of the workers are now making more than 50 cents an hour than was the case before the code. In July 1933, 50 cents represented the effective upper limit, or the "ceiling" for all workers in the industry, except 5 percent of males in the North. In August 1934 the corresponding "ceiling" was 70 cents an hour.

AVERAGE EARNINGS IN THE COTTON-GOODS INDUSTRY

	Hourly earnings		Weekly earnings		Real weekly earnings 1/	
	July 1933	August 1934	July 1933	August 1934	July 1933	August 1934
	Cents	Cents				
North:						
Male	28.3	42.1	$14.32	$14.48	$14.32	$13.76
Female	23.1	37.3	10.80	12.18	10.80	11.57
South:						
Male	19.9	33.9	10.24	10.29	10.24	9.47
Female	16.1	32.1	7.35	9.19	7.35	8.45

1/ Adjusted to the change in the cost of living between July 1933 and August 1934.

Despite the substantial increases in their hourly wages, cotton-textile workers are still among the lowest-paid groups of industrial workers. In October 1934 the average hourly wage in all manufacturing industries in the United States was 55½ cents. During the same month cotton-goods workers averaged 38 cents per hour. Only 4 of the 85 industries included in the average for the United States as a whole paid hourly rates lower than cotton. These were:

37 cents in cigars and cigarettes
37 cents in canning and preserving
36 cents in fertilizers
22 cents in cotton-seed oil, cake, and meal

This situation is, however, an improvement over July 1933 when the cotton-goods industry, with an average of 23 cents, was the second lowest of the industries covered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WEEKLY EARNINGS

Weekly earnings of male workers in the North and South were about the same in August 1934 as they were in July 1933, before the code. On the average, male workers in the North earned $14.30 for a week's work in July 1933 and $14.50 in August 1934. In the South, males averaged $10.25 per week in July 1933 and $10.30 in August 1934.

Weekly earnings of female workers increased between July 1933 and August 1934 despite the large curtailment in hours worked. In the North they earned $12.20 for a week's work in August 1934 as against $10.80 in July 1933. In the South, female workers averaged $9.20 in August 1934 as against $7.35 in July 1933.

The level of weekly earnings of textile workers in the North and in the South was very low before the cotton-textile code went into effect. In August 1933, that is immediately after the adoption of the code, weekly earnings rose considerably for nearly all groups of textile workers. However, during the curtailment of operations in the summer of 1934 they declined sharply, and in August of that year were approximately back to the precode level.

WEEKLY EARNINGS OF COTTON-TEXTILE WORKERS

Earnings	Number of workers covered in the North			Number of workers covered in the South		
	July 1933	August 1933	August 1934	July 1933	August 1933	August 1934
Total.....	12,337	33,134	28,548	19,657	57,108	54,796
Under $8	287	601	81	8,322	1,682	4,584
$8 and under $10	2,735	390	524	5,898	7,256	33,020
$10 and under $12	3,570	1,894	9,453	3,277	29,321	10,692
$12 and under $14	2,841	14,158	6,828	410	7,590	1,143
$14 and under $16	1,587	4,644	7,890	776	6,080	3,986
$16 and under $18	417	8,291	1,281	585	1,836	None
$18 and under $20	93	852	371	None	2,053	796
$20 and over	807	2,304	2,120	389	1,290	575

A decline in the hours of work per week explains the failure of weekly earnings to rise with the striking increases in hourly wages. The average number of hours worked per week dropped from 49 in July 1933 to 30 in August 1934. For the first 12 months of the code the average was approximately 34 hours. In the 4 months immediately preceding the general strike in September 1934, cotton-goods workers averaged 30 hours per week. This was due to a curtailment order establishing a general maximum of 30 hours instead of the 40-hour maximum provided in the code.

In the North out of every 100 workers employed in --

July 1933, 53 made less than $12 per week
76 made less than $14 per week
89 made less than $16 per week
August 1933, 9 made less than $12 per week
51 made less than $14 per week
65 made less than $16 per week
August 1934,35 made less than $12 per week
59 made less than $14 per week
87 made less than $16 per week

In the South out of every 100 workers employed in --

July 1933,	72	made less than $10 per week
	89	made less than $12 per week
	91	made less than $14 per week
August 1933,	16	made less than $10 per week
	67	made less than $12 per week
	80	made less than $14 per week
August 1934,	69	made less than $10 per week
	88	made less than $12 per week
	90	made less than $14 per week

REAL EARNINGS

The figures on weekly earnings presented above relate to the weekly money income of the textile workers. The value of this income to workers depends on how much it can buy. For this reason the Bureau of Labor Statistics also made a survey of the changes in the cost of food, fuel, rent, and other items which enter into the budget of the textile workers' families. This study, which was made simultaneously with the wages and hours survey, reveals that between July 1933 and August 1934 the cost of the items entering into the budget of these families increased about 5 percent in the North and about 8 percent in the South. Since there was practically no change in the money income of the male textile workers during this period, their real average earnings, that is the quantity of bread, potatoes, eggs, shoes, carfare, and other goods and services these workers could buy with their weekly pay check, were 5 to 8 percent smaller in August 1934 than in July 1933. On the other hand, the wages of female workers in August 1934 bought 7 percent more in the North and 16 percent more in the South than in July 1933.

The difference in real earnings between August 1933 and August 1934 is of course more striking. Between these 2 months real earnings of all cotton-textile workers declined 15 percent in the North and 25 percent in the South. In other words, the purchasing power of the cotton-textile workers was 15 to 25 percent smaller in August 1934 than in August of the previous year.

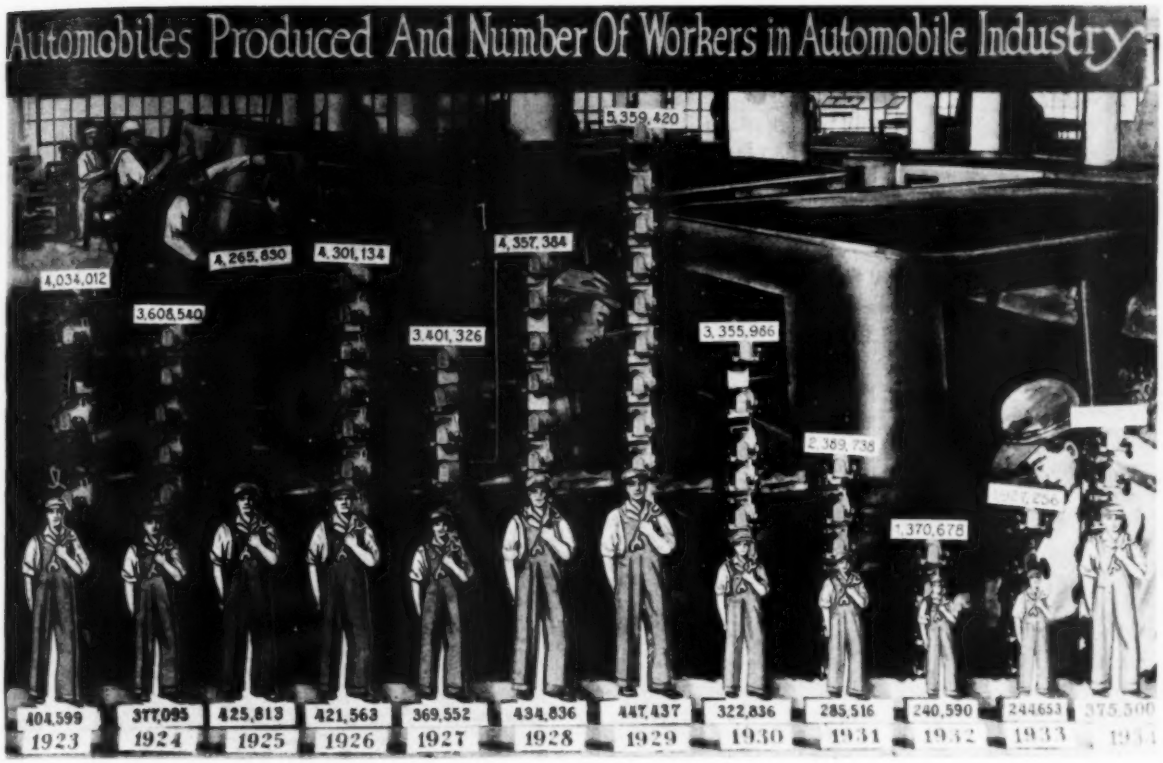
THE N. R. A. ANALYZES THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Stabilization of employment in the automobile industry through the introduction of new models in the fall and a November date for the automobile show was recommended by the National Recovery Administration in its recent report on conditions in the automobile industry. Time-and-a-half pay for all hours worked in excess of 40, with a 48-hour maximum permitted for not more than 8 weeks in any year was also recommended. The survey was made at the request of the President of the United States by the Research and Planning Division of the N. R. A. in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT

For 15 years the automobile industry was outstanding in the payment of high hourly wages to its workers. During this period large profits were reinvested by 8 of the leading companies to purchase 80 percent of the plants and equipment they are using today.

In recent years the industry, like its product, has changed greatly. Production has been increasingly concentrated in large companies. In 1928, Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors made 68 out of every 100 automobiles produced in the United States.



In 1934 these 3 companies produced 90 percent. At the same time, there has been a swing to low-priced cars. Five out of every 10 cars produced in 1929 were sold at wholesale for less than $500. In 1933 this proportion increased to 8 out of every 10.

The number of cars produced, their total value, and their average price have declined greatly during the past few years. Production in the United States declined from 5,358,000 cars in 1929 to 2,779,000 cars in 1934. The total value of these cars declined from 3½ billion dollars in 1929 to 1¼ billion in 1934. Average wholesale prices were reduced from $636 in 1929 to $504 in 1934.

The hardships of reduced employment because of curtailed production have been increased by irregular production schedules. There is approximately twice as much employment in the automobile industry during the three spring months, March, April, and May, as there is during the fall months, September, October, and November. The high month for both production and employment is April; the low month is November. The large increase in employment during the spring is due to the spring buying peak and to the introduction of new models. Employment of tool and die makers is largely concentrated in a few weeks just before the change in models. In one large automobile plant a group of tool makers worked 77 hours a week for several weeks in succession during December 1934 in preparation for the 1935 models.

CAUSES OF LABOR UNREST

The N. R. A. reports that "Labor unrest in the automobile industry exists to a degree higher than warranted by the depression." This unrest is caused by insecurity, low annual earnings, inequitable firing and rehiring methods, the speed-up process, and the scrapping of middle-aged workers.

As a result of its high-wage policy inaugurated in 1920, the automobile industry

became the Mecca for thousands of young workers from nearly every State in the Union. Michigan, the center of the industry, contains 70 percent of the automobile workers. When the depression struck Detroit, practically 90 percent of its factory wage earners were dependent upon the automobile industry. Surrounding cities such as Pontiac, Flint, Jackson, and Lansing were in a similar position.

Many of the automobile workers came to Detroit and other automobile centers at the direct solicitation of representatives of the automobile companies. Many more came in response to extensive advertising by these companies in small towns and rural districts throughout the Middle West and the South. These workers achieved skills and abilities which enabled the automobile industry to increase its production and reduce its costs. "A miscellaneous group of farmers, small town merchants, and workers from other industries became, in every sense of the word, skilled automobile workers. As a class, they form one of the highest grade groups of workers which this country has known."

Despite high average hourly wages (74 cents in 1934), irregularity of employment in the automobile industry is reflected in low annual earnings. The average annual earnings in 4 plants surveyed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics was $1,050 in 1934. One out of every 5 workers employed in these plants earned less than $600 during the year.

Annual earnings varied greatly in the four plants studied. In one automobile company, which makes a special effort to regularize its employment, over one-half of the workers employed earned more than $1,200 in 1934. Nine out of every 10 of these workers averaged at least 40 weeks of work during the year. In contrast to this record, only 1 out of every 4 workers employed by another company averaged $1,200 or more in 1934. Less than 1 out of every 3 workers employed by this company worked as much as 40 weeks during the year.

With the depression, and masses of workers concentrated in automobile centers, unemployment has become a specter haunting the automobile worker. In addition, there is the constant fear of being suddenly laid off for reasons unknown to the individual worker. "The foremen in the industry are the 'key men' from a production standpoint. Their whims seem to be the controlling influences in the lives of many automobile workers. There is evidence to indicate that if a foreman says 'don't rehire' on his lay-off slip, this snap judgment may be taken as final.

"Few workers are actually discharged. Even if the lay-off is to be final the employee is commonly told that he is laid off and that when he is wanted he will be notified. There may be no intention of rehiring him at the given plant, but the evidence indicates that it is very difficult for the individual worker to find this out. He goes to see his former foreman, or he goes to the employment office, and he is told that there is nothing for him today, but that perhaps there will be in a few weeks or in a few months. He comes back again and again and gets similar replies. It is only after he sees most of his former coworkers rehired that he finally realizes that he no longer has a job in that plant. He tries to find out why, and he cannot."

Even while engaged at his task, the automobile worker is not free from this fear of losing his job. On his way to work he sees other men waiting at the gate in search of employment. "If he slows down while on the job, his straw boss or foreman tells him to 'Step on it; if you don't want the job, there are thousands outside who do', or 'Look out the window and see the men waiting in line for your job.'"

The efficiency of automobile workers during the past decade has been greatly increased through so-called "time studies" made by checking each operation against a clock to determine the speediest method of performing each job. "The time-study men have been forced to make inequitable reductions in working time to hold their own jobs. From setting work on an efficient basis they have come to set it on a speed-up basis that places production demands beyond human capabilities to produce day after day." Such

speeding-up is made possible by the huge supply of labor available through which "if one man falls by the wayside, another is there to take his place."

The automobile industry has always been a young man's industry, and today it has set a new low age for the displacement of workers. "Evidence is available to indicate that when a man who has reached the age of 40 is laid off, it becomes increasingly difficult for him to get his job back during the next hiring period. Men over 40 who are still on the employment rolls feel in many cases that they are working on 'borrowed time', as they express it. Many thousands who were employed in 1928 and 1929 will never be employed in the industry again, as far ahead as can now be estimated."

EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN 1934 AND IN JANUARY 1935

Manufacturing Industries

1934 Compared With 1933. Manufacturing industries in 1934 employed 822,400 more workers than in 1933. Average weekly pay rolls were $27,390,000 larger. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that, on the average, manufacturing industries supplied employment to 6,601,000 wage earners in 1934, as compared with 5,778,000 in 1933. The average weekly pay roll for 1934 is estimated at $126,000,000, compared with $98,600,000 in 1933.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAY-ROLL GAINS IN 1934
Durable-Goods Industries

Industry group	Employment	Pay roll
Total.....	536,600	$16,505,000
Iron and steel.....	89,400	3,150,000
Machinery.....	165,100	4,550,000
Transportation equipment	161,700	5,000,000
Railroad-repair shops...	16,800	875,000
Nonferrous metals.....	34,800	1,065,000
Lumber.....	41,300	1,165,000
Stone, clay, and glass..	27,500	700,000

Nearly two-thirds of the 1934 gain in employment and pay rolls was recorded in the durable-goods industries. These industries are engaged in the manufacture of building equipment, machinery, railroad cars, automobiles and trucks, and other items produced from durable raw materials, such as iron and steel, lumber, stone, clay, and glass. Employment in the durable-goods industries increased by 537,000 from 2,315,000 in 1933 to 2,852,000 in 1934. Average weekly pay rolls in these industries rose from $40,750,000 to $57,250,000, or by $16,510,000.

The remaining one-third of the gains in employment and pay rolls in 1934 occurred in the non-durable-goods industries. These industries manufacture such products as flour, canned goods, cigars, and cigarettes, which are consumed at once, or such articles

EMPLOYMENT AND PAY-ROLL GAINS IN 1934
Non-durable-Goods Industries

Industry group	Employment	Pay roll
Total.....	285,800	$10,885,000
Textiles.....	53,200	3,170,000
Leather.....	14,600	770,000
Foods.....	80,700	2,475,000
Tobacco.....	4,000	105,000
Paper and printing...	45,500	1,535,000
Chemicals.....	46,200	1,260,000
Rubber.....	12,000	470,000
Unclassified.....	29,600	1,100,000

as shirts, overalls, and shoes, which wear out relatively quickly.

The non-durable-goods industries provided employment to 3,749,000 wage earners in 1934, as compared with 3,463,000 in 1933. Employment in these industries thus increased by 286,000 during the calendar year 1934. The average weekly pay roll rose by $10,882,000, from $57,880,000 in 1933 to $68,760,000 in 1934.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED				
	AVERAGE for 1934	AVERAGE for 1933	JANUARY 1935[1]	DECEMBER 1934[2]	JANUARY 1934
All industries	6,600,800	5,778,400	6,587,400	6,544,400	6,146,000
Durable-goods groups:	2,852,000	2,315,400	2,861,100	2,785,800	2,590,600
Iron and steel	592,800	503,400	581,600	572,200	545,500
Machinery	682,200	517,100	699,000	689,300	614,700
Transportation equipment	467,200	305,500	519,000	441,800	401,200
Railroad-repair shops	267,400	250,600	248,800	250,700	254,500
Nonferrous metals	210,000	175,200	214,800	217,300	190,200
Lumber	447,400	406,100	432,600	439,000	418,800
Stone, clay, and glass	185,000	157,500	165,300	175,500	165,700
Non-durable-goods groups:	3,748,800	3,463,000	3,726,300	3,758,600	3,555,400
Textiles	1,485,900	1,432,700	1,551,200	1,512,100	1,437,100
Leather	284,000	269,400	285,700	274,300	268,200
Foods	711,700	631,000	630,100	693,800	628,700
Tobacco	86,700	82,700	78,200	85,700	75,400
Paper and printing	503,900	458,400	508,800	519,400	490,700
Chemicals	361,600	315,400	360,700	362,300	359,200
Rubber	111,300	99,300	109,900	106,100	110,100
Unclassified	203,700	174,100	201,700	204,900	186,000

1/ Preliminary 2/Revised

EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN JANUARY 1935

Contrary to seasonal trends, employment and pay rolls in manufacturing industries increased between December 1934 and January 1935. This increase was due chiefly to enlarged operations in the automobile industry, which is included in the transportation equipment group. Smaller increases in employment also occurred in iron and steel and in the machinery manufacturing groups of the durable-goods industries, and in textiles, leather, and rubber in the non-durable-goods industries. Seasonal declines in employment were registered in the other industries.

Average weekly pay rolls in January 1935 followed a trend similar to that of employment. Pay rolls increased most in the transportation equipment group, which includes the automobile industry. Increases also occurred in iron and steel, and in the machinery manufacturing group of the durable-goods industries, and in textiles,

leather, and rubber-goods manufacturing in the non-durable-goods industries. The other groups registered seasonal reductions in their weekly pay rolls.

Both employment and pay rolls were substantially larger in January of this year than in January 1934. Employment in all manufacturing industries rose by 441,000, and the weekly pay roll by $20,700,000. With the exception of small reductions in employment, of 5,700 in railroad-repair shops, 400 in stone, clay, and glass, and 200 in rubber-goods manufacturing, all groups of the durable- and non-durable-goods industries employed more workers in January of this year than a year ago. The gains in employment were:

117,800 in transportation equipment
114,100 in textiles
84,300 in machinery manufacturing
36,100 in iron and steel
24,600 in nonferrous metals
18,100 in paper and printing
17,500 in leather products
13,800 in lumber
2,800 in tobacco manufacturing
1,500 in chemicals
1,400 in foodstuffs

All durable- and non-durable-goods groups also had larger weekly pay rolls this January than in January 1934. The increase in the weekly income of the workers employed ranged in amounts from $37,000 in tobacco manufacturing to $4,475,000 in the transportation equipment group.

ESTIMATED WEEKLY PAY ROLLS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	AMOUNT OF WEEKLY PAY ROLL IN THOUSAND DOLLARS				
	AVERAGE for 1934	AVERAGE for 1933	JANUARY 1935 1/	DECEMBER 1934 2/	JANUARY 1934
All industries	$126,012	$98,623	$130,503	$128,593	$109,806
Durable-goods groups:	57,252	40,745	59,566	57,365	47,358
Iron and steel	12,073	8,925	12,724	11,737	10,134
Machinery	13,526	8,975	14,382	14,240	11,260
Transportation equipment	11,801	6,799	13,547	11,637	9,072
Railroad-repair shops	6,529	5,652	5,941	6,022	5,710
Nonferrous metals	4,106	3,039	4,295	4,507	3,452
Lumber	6,063	4,900	5,872	6,168	5,075
Stone, clay, and glass	3,154	2,455	2,805	3,054	2,655
Non-durable-goods groups:	68,760	57,878	70,937	71,228	62,448
Textiles	22,564	19,394	24,897	23,852	20,526
Leather	5,164	4,394	5,337	4,827	4,716
Foods	14,080	11,604	12,682	14,156	12,301
Tobacco	1,049	944	923	1,110	886
Paper and printing	11,832	10,299	12,427	12,858	11,045
Chemicals	7,437	6,179	7,612	7,633	7,035
Rubber	2,208	1,740	2,407	2,289	2,036
Unclassified	4,426	3,324	4,652	4,503	3,903

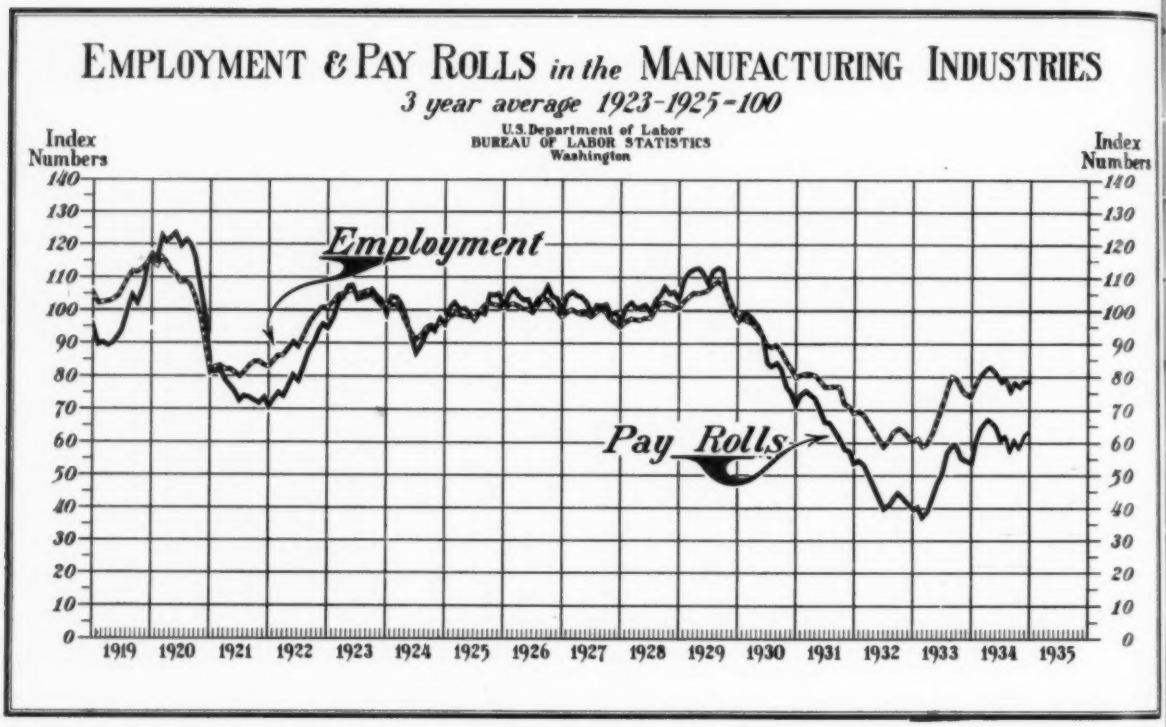
1/ Preliminary 2/ Revised

Trend of Employment and Pay Rolls in Manufacturing Industries

Employment in manufacturing industries in 1934 was 14 percent higher than in 1933. Weekly pay rolls were 28 percent higher. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics employment index for 1934 was 78.8 compared with 69.0 for 1933. This means that for every 1,000 workers employed during the base period, 1923-25, 788 workers had jobs in 1934 compared with 690 in 1933.

The pay-roll index for 1934 was 61.9 compared with 48.5 in 1933. In other words, for every $1,000 paid out in wages during the base period, 1923-25, wage earners received $619 in 1934 and $485 in 1933.

As indicated on the chart, the employment index for January 1935 was 78.6 compared with 78.1 in December 1934 and 73.3 in January 1934. The pay-roll index for January 1935 was 64.1 compared with 63.2 in December 1934 and 54.0 in January 1934. Factory employment in January of this year was thus 7 percent higher than in the same month a year ago. Weekly pay rolls were 19 percent higher.



Hours of Work and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries

Employment in manufacturing industries in January 1935 averaged 35 hours per week, the same as in the previous month, but 1½ hours more than in January 1934. Hourly earnings averaged 56½ cents in January 1935, 56 cents in December 1934, and 53 cents in January of last year.

The January 1935 and December 1934 averages are based on actual hours of work reported by 20,536 establishments employing

3,127,990 wage earners. The January 1934 average is based on 11,820 establishments with 2,176,403 wage earners.

HOURS AND WAGES IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES

In the five selected representative durable-goods industries the average weekly hours and the average hourly earnings in January 1935 were --

Weekly hours:
35.5 in automobiles
35.0 in foundries and machine shops
33.5 in sawmills
32.5 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
30.5 in brick manufacturing

Hourly earnings (in cents):
71.0 in automobiles
65.0 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
59.5 in foundries and machine shops
46.0 in brick manufacturing
42.5 in sawmills

In five selected representative non-durable-goods industries the average weekly hours and the average hourly earnings in January 1935 were --

Weekly hours:
39.0 in slaughtering and meat packing
37.5 in paper and pulp
35.0 in cotton-goods manufacturing
34.0 in petroleum refining
33.5 in tires and inner tubes

Hourly earnings (in cents):
81.0 in tires and inner tubes
78.5 in petroleum refining
55.0 in slaughtering and meat packing
52.5 in paper and pulp
37.5 in cotton-goods manufacturing

Employment in the automobile industry, blast furnaces, foundries and machine shops, sawmills, cotton goods, paper and pulp, and tires and inner tubes averaged longer hours per week in January of this year than in January 1934. The increases ranged from 1 hour per week in cotton goods to 3½ hours per week in blast furnaces. In the three remaining industries weekly hours were somewhat lower than in January of last year.

Average hourly earnings in January were higher than a year ago in 9 out of 10 selected industries. Increases of from 5 to 10 cents per hour were registered in automobiles, blast furnaces, petroleum refining, and tires and inner tubes. In the other five industries the increases ranged from a fraction of a cent in cotton goods to three cents in foundries and machine shops. There was no change in the hourly earnings of the workers employed in sawmills.

WEEKLY EARNINGS

Earnings of wage earners employed in manufacturing industries in January 1935 averaged $20 per week, compared with $19.75 in December 1934 and $18 in January 1934. These earnings are based on total pay-roll reports, which include part-time as well as full-time employees.

In the five selected representative durable-goods industries the workers employed averaged per week --
$25.20 in automobiles
21.05 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
20.95 in foundries and machine shops
13.95 in sawmills
13.85 in brick manufacturing

In the five selected non-durable-goods industries the weekly wage incomes of the workers employed were --
$26.70 in petroleum refining
26.70 in tires and inner tubes
22.25 in slaughtering and meat packing
19.85 in paper and pulp
13.30 in cotton-goods manufacturing

The weekly earnings of the workers employed in all the 10 selected industries were higher this January than in January of last year. In the five durable-goods industries the increases in the weekly wage incomes of the workers employed varied in amounts from 85 cents in brick manufacturing to $4.50 in automobiles. In the five non-durable-goods industries the increases ranged from 65 cents per week in cotton-goods manufacturing to $5.10 in tires and inner tubes.

Wages and Hours in Certain Nonmanufacturing Industries

Bituminous Coal. Employment and the weekly pay roll in January 1935 increased slightly over December 1934 -- employment by 1,400 workers and pay rolls by $285,000. In January, 367,000 miners received a total of $6,588,000 in weekly wages. On the average, they worked 27.5 hours per week at wages of 70.5 cents per hour. Weekly earnings averaged $19.30.

Class I Steam Railroads. The monthly pay roll advanced $2,000,000 in January 1935 over the previous month. The number employed, exclusive of executives and staff assistants, was 947,000. Their monthly pay roll was $122,000,000. Average monthly wages of individual workers increased from $126 in December 1934 to $129 in January 1935.

Electric Railroads. Employment and the weekly pay roll in January 1935 remained approximately the same as in the previous month. About 190,000 workers received a total of $5,380,000 for working 45.5 hours per week at hourly wages of 61.5 cents. Weekly earnings averaged $28.15.

Telephone and Telegraph. Employment in January 1935 increased by 4,000 workers and the weekly pay roll increased $101,000 over December 1934. Approximately 378,000 workers were paid a total of $10,700,000 per week in January. They made $27.75 for a 38-hour week, averaging 74.5 cents per hour.

Power and Light. Between December 1934 and January 1935 employment decreased by 3,000. The power and light industry employed about 265,000 workers in January. The weekly pay roll remained at about $7,400,000. Hourly wages advanced slightly to 77.5 cents, and workers, on the average, earned $30 for a 38-hour week.

Hotels. Employment increased by 6,500 workers and the weekly pay roll by $69,000 between December 1934 and January 1935. In January, the hotel industry employed 268,000 workers and paid them a total of $3,500,000 weekly. On the average, these workers made $13.50 per week by working 47 hours at 28 cents per hour.

Laundries. The number of workers employed and the total weekly pay roll remained the same in January 1935 as in December 1934. Laundries throughout the United States employed 185,000 workers at a weekly pay roll of $2,800,000. In January, earnings averaged $15 per week for 40 hours of work. Hourly earnings averaged 37 cents.

Dyeing and Cleaning. Between December 1934 and January 1935 employment decreased by 1,300 to a total of 41,500. The weekly pay roll remained approximately the same -- $735,000. On the average, workers earned $17.50 per week by working 40 hours at 43.5 cents per hour.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN SPECIFIED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Industries	Employment			Weekly Pay Rolls		
	Average for 1934	Average for 1933	Change from 1933 to 1934	Average for 1934	Average for 1933	Change from 1933 to 1934
Bituminous coal.....	354,100	311,600	+ 42,500	$ 5,989,000	$ 4,176,000	+ $1,813,000
Class I steam railways.	997,000	958,700	+ 38,300	30,370,000	27,960,000	+ 2,410,000
Electric railroads.....	192,400	186,800	+ 5,600	5,322,000	5,041,000	+ 281,000
Telephone and telegraph	376,800	377,500	- 700	10,344,000	9,856,000	+ 488,000
Power and light.....	268,200	252,200	+ 16,000	7,405,000	6,840,000	+ 565,000
Hotels.....	266,700	235,300	+ 31,400	3,414,000	2,854,000	+ 560,000
Laundries.....	189,600	183,600	+ 6,000	2,854,000	2,619,000	+ 235,000
Dyeing and cleaning....	45,600	43,900	+ 1,700	819,000	723,000	+ 96,000

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN JANUARY 1935

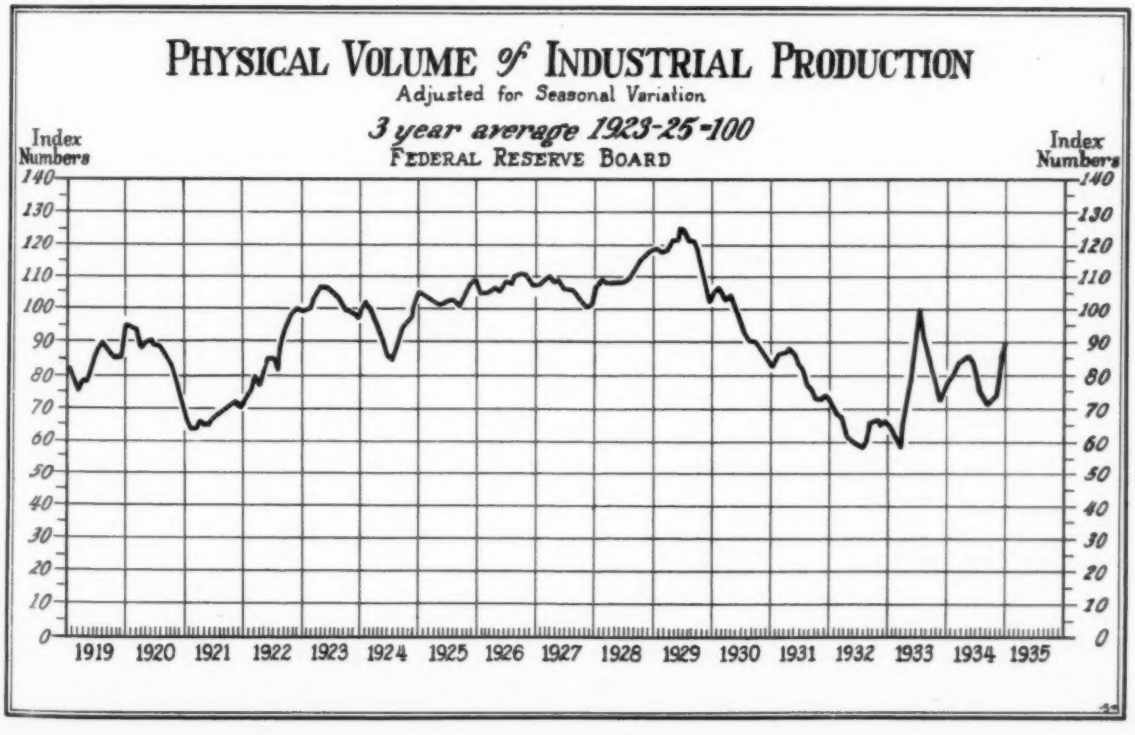
Agriculture

Farm Wages. Between October 1934 and January 1935, farm wage rates decreased in nearly all agricultural regions. For the country as a whole, the farm wage rate was estimated at $17.05 per month with board in January 1935, compared with $18.65 in October 1934. The average for the 5 years, 1910 to 1914, is $20.40. In January 1935, the monthly rate with board varied in amounts from $13.15 in the East South Central area to $30.60 on the Pacific coast. Without board, the range in January 1935 was from $19.40 in the East South Central area to $50.90 on the Pacific coast.

Farm Income. The total cash income of farmers from all sources in January 1935 is estimated at $498,000,000, compared with $488,000,000 in December 1934 and $485,000,000 in January 1934. The sale of farm products in January 1935 accounted for $428,000,000, rental and benefit payments for $63,000,000, and emergency sale of cattle and sheep in the drought area for $7,000,000.

Industry and Trade

Industrial production in 1934 was 4 percent higher than in 1933. The Federal Reserve Board's preliminary index of the physical volume of industrial production for 1934 was 79, compared with 76 in 1933. This means that for every 100 units of commodities (automobiles, tons of coal mined, pairs of shoes, etc.,) produced during the base period, 1923-25, there were 79 such units produced in 1934 as against 76 in 1933.



Industrial output, which had shown a rapid growth in December, increased further in January. Activity in the steel and automobile industries continued to increase rapidly during January and the early part of February. In the middle of the month, however, steel production declined. Output of lumber increased in January but was still at a low level. There was also considerable growth of activity at cotton- and woolen-textile mills. The decline in department store sales declined somewhat more than is usual after the Christmas holiday.

The Federal Reserve Board index of industrial production for January 1935 was approximately 90, compared with 86 in the previous month and 78 in January 1934. Industrial output in January of this month was thus nearly 5 percent higher than in December and more than 15 percent higher than in January of last year.

Business and Industrial Barometers

Automobiles. Production of automobiles in January 1935 was higher than for any January since 1929. The total output is estimated at 292,500 units -- 108,600 cars more than in December 1934 and 135,900 cars more than in January of last year.

Bituminous Coal. Output of bituminous coal in January 1935 is estimated at 35,930,000 tons--4,546,000 tons more than in December 1934 and 3,016,000 tons more than in January 1934.

Building Permits. The value of buildings for which permits were issued in 774 identical cities during January 1935 was $35,200,000 -- $5,200,000 more than in the previous month and nearly $7,000,000 more than in January a year ago.

Cotton Textiles. Consumption of raw cotton by the cotton-textile industry is estimated at 547,000 bales--33,000 bales more than in December 1934 and 39,000 bales more than in January of last year.

Electric Power. Production of electric power in January was approximately 1,750 million kilowatt hours per week -- 13 million kilowatt hours per week more than in the previous month and 135 million kilowatt hours per week more than in January a year previous.

Railroad Freight Car Loadings. Class I railroads in January 1935 averaged 554,000 cars of freight loaded per week--28,000 cars per week more than in December 1934 and 5,000 cars per week more than in January of last year.

Retail Trade. The total sales of two large mail order houses in January 1935 are estimated at $41,200,000 -- $35,500,000 less than in the previous month (which included the Christmas holiday) and $4,400,000 more than in January a year ago.

Steel. The output of steel ingots in January was 2,834,000 tons -- 892,000 tons more than in the previous month and 863,000 tons more than in January 1934.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT AND RELIEF IN JANUARY 1935

Public Works. During the year 1934 the Public Works Administration paid out in wages to workers employed at the site of P. W. A. construction projects approximately $304,000,000. The total value of material purchased is estimated at $600,000,000.

More than 305,000 workers were employed on P. W. A. projects during January. This is a decrease of 77,000 from the previous month. Pay rolls for January amounted to more than $18,500,000, or $4,000,000 less than in December. The decrease in employment

and pay rolls was caused by bad weather conditions which usually curtail employment on construction at this season of the year.

Emergency Conservation Work. During the year 1934 the Civil Conservation Camps paid out in wages a total of $173,800,000. For January 1935 the membership in these camps is estimated at 398,500, or 48,500 more than in the previous month. The January enrollment was the highest for any month since the beginning of the emergency work program in May 1933. The pay rolls for the month amounted to approximately $16,800,000.

Emergency Work Relief. During the 10 months of its existence in 1934, the emergency work program resulted in the disbursement of $454,000,000 for relief work. In January 1935 the Federal Emergency Relief Administration supplied relief work to approximately 2,400,000 applicants at an estimated outlay of $65,000,000.

Emergency Relief. Preliminary reports received by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration from 142 cities or urban counties indicate that between December 1934 and January 1935 the number of cases (resident families and single persons) receiving aid from public funds increased 3 percent. Expenditures for emergency relief from public funds increased 11 percent.

The total number of families receiving unemployment relief in these 142 communities increased from 2,146,000 in December 1934 to 2,212,000 in January 1935. Total expenditures rose by 7,710,000 from 68,150,000 in December to 75,860,000 in January.

WHAT HAPPENED TO PRICES IN 1934 AND IN JANUARY 1935

Wholesale Prices. Wholesale commodity prices in 1934 were 14 percent higher than in 1933. The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices was 74.9 in 1934 compared with 65.9 in 1933, 95.3 in 1929, and 100 in 1926. In other words, $74.90 purchased at wholesale in 1934 the same amount of commodities that cost $100 in 1926, $65.90 in 1933, and $95.30 in 1929.

The January 1935 index of wholesale prices was 78.8 compared with 76.9 in December 1934 and 72.2 in January a year previous. Wholesale prices in January of this year were thus 2½ percent higher than in the previous month and 9 percent higher than in January 1934.

AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES

	Year 1926	Year 1934	Year 1933	January 1935	January 1934	Increase or decrease: 1933 to 1934	Increase or decrease: January 1934 to January 1935
	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Percent	Percent
All commodities.....	100	74.9	65.9	78.8	72.2	+13.7	+ 9.1
Farm products.....	100	65.3	51.4	88.8	63.7	+27.0	+39.4
Raw materials.....	100	68.6	56.5	76.6	64.1	+21.4	+19.5
Semimanufactured articles.	100	72.8	65.4	71.2	71.9	+11.3	- 1.0
Finished products.....	100	78.2	70.5	80.8	76.0	+10.9	+ 6.3

Retail Food Prices. Average retail food prices in 1934 were 11 percent higher than in 1933. The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of retail food prices averaged, for the country as a whole, 69.0 in 1934 compared with 62.1 in 1933, 97.6 in 1929, and 100 in 1926. This means that, for every dollar's worth of food bought in retail markets during 1926, the purchaser paid on the average 69 cents in 1934, 62 cents in 1933, and 98 cents in 1929.

AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE

Item	Year 1934	Year 1933	January 1935	January 1934	Increase (+) or decrease (-) 1933 to 1934	Increase (+) or decrease (-) January 1934 to January 1935
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Bread, pound.....	8.2	7.1	8.3	7.9	+ 1.1	+ 0.4
Butter, pound.....	31.0	27.3	37.9	25.7	+ 3.7	+12.2
Milk, quart.....	11.3	10.6	11.8	11.1	+ .7	+ .7
Eggs, dozen.....	29.9	26.1	37.7	30.1	+ 3.8	+ 7.6
Potatoes, pound.....	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.6	No change	- .8
Lard, pound.....	11.7	9.0	17.0	9.4	+ 2.7	+ 7.6
Pork chops, pound...	25.0	19.6	28.8	19.9	+ 5.4	+ 8.9
Round steak, pound..	27.4	25.2	30.2	24.3	+ 2.2	+ 5.9
Sugar, pound.....	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	+ .2	0.0
Coffee, pound.....	27.4	27.1	27.9	26.4	+ .3	+ 1.5

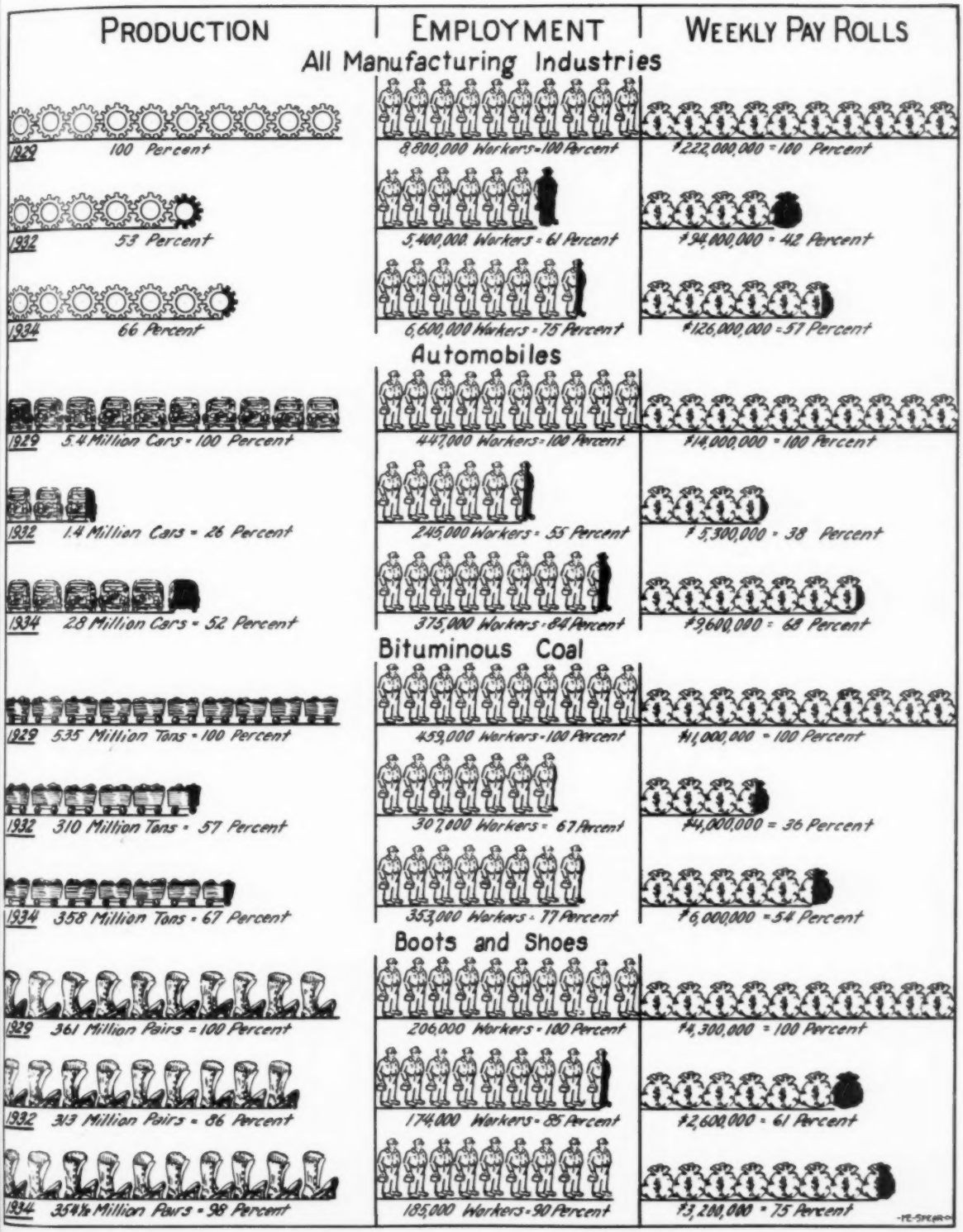
Retail food prices in January 1935 were 3 percent higher than in December 1934 and 12 percent higher than in January 1934.

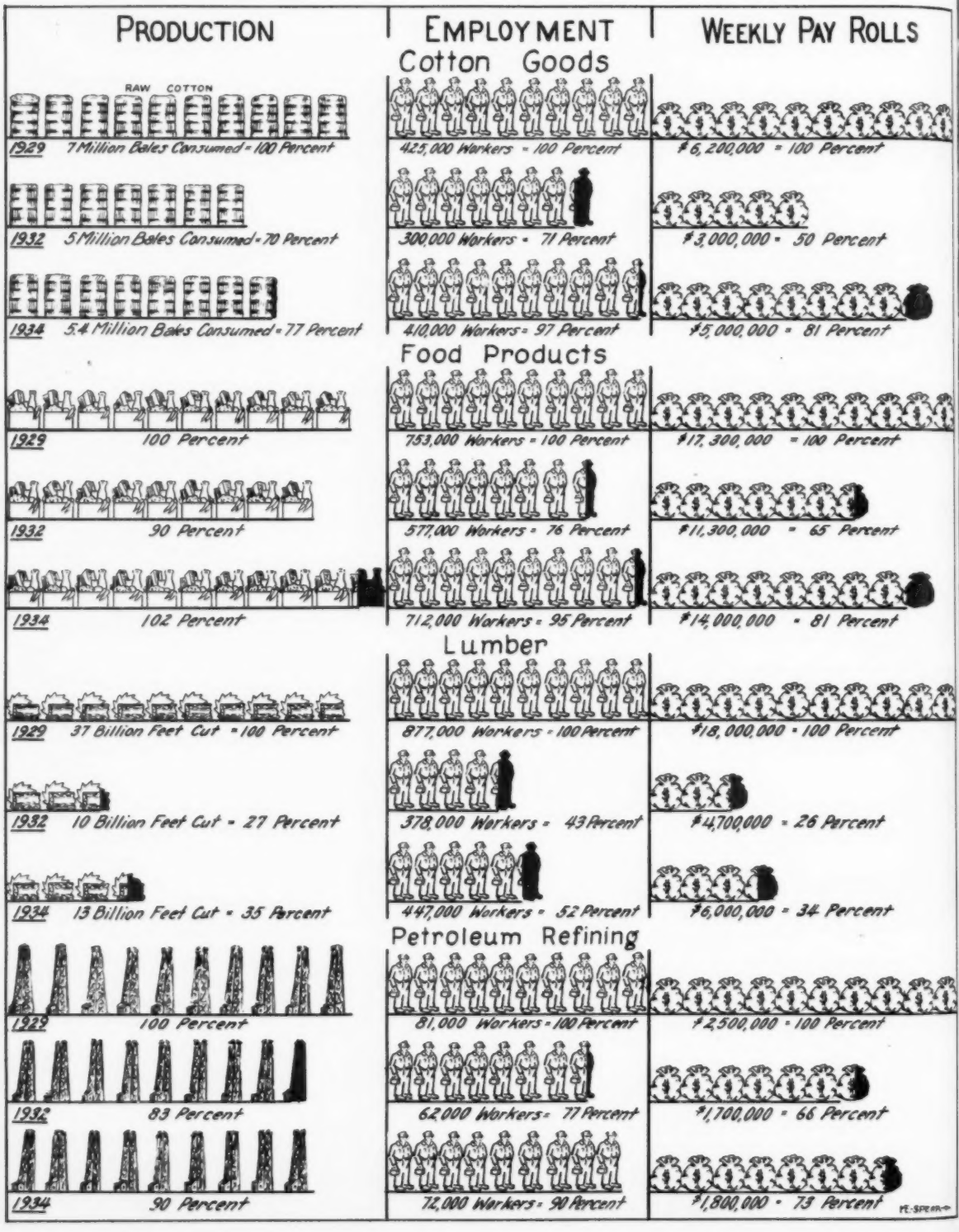
QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT

In response to a number of requests, the Bureau of Labor Statistics presents in the following pages a graphic story of production and employment conditions in 1934, compared with those for 1932 and 1929. The totals for all manufacturing, and some of the major individual manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries, are included.

The depression was at its worst in 1932. The charts, therefore, tell the story of the recovery since 1932. At the same time they also indicate how much we have yet to recover before reaching the 1929 level of prosperity.

As indicated on the graphs, the 1929 statistics of production, employment, and pay rolls are taken as 100, and the data for 1932 and 1934 are given as percentages of 1929. For example, production of automobiles in 1932 was only 26 percent of 1929. In 1934, it rose to 52 percent of the 1929 volume. This means that for every 100 cars produced in 1929, 26 were made in 1932, and 52 in 1934. Similarly, the employment chart shows that for every 100 men employed in making automobiles in 1929, 55 were employed in 1932, and 84 in 1934. Finally, from the pay-roll chart we learn that for every $100 paid out in wages by the automobile industry in 1929, $38 was paid out in 1932, and $68 in 1934.


PRODUCTION
EMPLOYMENT
WEEKLY PAY ROLLS
All Manufacturing Industries
1929 100 Percent
8,800,000 Workers=100 Percent
$222,000,000 = 100 Percent
1932 53 Percent
5,400,000 Workers = 61 Percent
$94,000,000 = 42 Percent
1934 66 Percent
6,600,000 Workers = 75 Percent
$126,000,000 = 57 Percent
Automobiles
1929 5.4 Million Cars = 100 Percent
447,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$14,000,000 = 100 Percent
1932 1.4 Million Cars = 26 Percent
245,000 Workers = 55 Percent
$ 5,300,000 = 38 Percent
1934 2.8 Million Cars = 52 Percent
375,000 Workers = 84 Percent
$9,600,000 = 68 Percent
Bituminous Coal
1929 535 Million Tons = 100 Percent
459,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$1,000,000 = 100 Percent
1932 310 Million Tons = 57 Percent
307,000 Workers = 67 Percent
$4,000,000 = 36 Percent
1934 358 Million Tons = 67 Percent
353,000 Workers = 77 Percent
$6,000,000 = 54 Percent
Boots and Shoes
1929 361 Million Pairs = 100 Percent
206,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$4,300,000 = 100 Percent
1932 313 Million Pairs = 86 Percent
174,000 Workers = 85 Percent
$2,600,000 = 61 Percent
1934 354½ Million Pairs = 98 Percent
185,000 Workers = 90 Percent
$3,200,000 = 75 Percent


PRODUCTION
EMPLOYMENT
WEEKLY PAY ROLLS
Cotton Goods
RAW COTTON
1929 7 Million Bales Consumed = 100 Percent
425,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$6,200,000 = 100 Percent
1932 5 Million Bales Consumed = 70 Percent
300,000 Workers = 71 Percent
$3,000,000 = 50 Percent
1934 5.4 Million Bales Consumed = 77 Percent
410,000 Workers = 97 Percent
$5,000,000 = 81 Percent
Food Products
1929 100 Percent
753,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$17,300,000 = 100 Percent
1932 90 Percent
577,000 Workers = 76 Percent
$11,300,000 = 65 Percent
1934 102 Percent
712,000 Workers = 95 Percent
$14,000,000 = 81 Percent
Lumber
1929 37 Billion Feet Cut = 100 Percent
877,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$18,000,000 = 100 Percent
1932 10 Billion Feet Cut = 27 Percent
378,000 Workers = 43 Percent
$4,700,000 = 26 Percent
1934 13 Billion Feet Cut = 35 Percent
447,000 Workers = 52 Percent
$6,000,000 = 34 Percent
Petroleum Refining
1929 100 Percent
81,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$2,500,000 = 100 Percent
1932 83 Percent
62,000 Workers = 77 Percent
$1,700,000 = 66 Percent
1934 90 Percent
72,000 Workers = 90 Percent
$1,800,000 = 73 Percent

PRODUCTION	EMPLOYMENT	WEEKLY PAY ROLLS
	Power and Light	
1929 97 Billion Kilowatt Hours = 100 Percent	319,000 Workers = 100 Percent	$9,500,000 = 100 Percent
1932 83 Billion Kilowatt Hours = 85 Percent	266,000 Workers = 83 Percent	$7,600,000 = 80 Percent
1934 91 Billion Kilowatt Hours = 93 Percent	268,000 Workers = 84 Percent	$7,400,000 = 78 Percent
	Railroads, Class I	
1929 53 Million Freight Cars Loaded = 100 Percent	1,700,000 Workers = 100 Percent	$56,600,000 = 100 Percent
1932 28 Million Freight Cars Loaded = 53 Percent	1,000,000 Workers = 62 Percent	$29,500,000 = 52 Percent
1934 31 Million Freight Cars Loaded = 58 Percent	1,000,000 Workers = 62 Percent	$29,700,000 = 53 Percent
	Rubber Tires	
1929 57 Million Tires = 100 Percent	83,000 Workers = 100 Percent	$2,500,000 = 100 Percent
1932 32 Million Tires = 58 Percent	43,000 Workers = 52 Percent	$800,000 = 34 Percent
1934 46 Million Tires = 68 Percent	57,000 Workers = 68 Percent	$1,200,000 = 50 Percent
	Steel	
1929 54 Million Tons of Ingots = 100 Percent	419,000 Workers = 100 Percent	$14,000,000 = 100 Percent
1932 13 Million Tons of Ingots = 24 Percent	209,000 Workers = 50 Percent	$3,200,000 = 23 Percent
1934 25 Million Tons of Ingots = 47 Percent	283,000 Workers = 68 Percent	$6,300,000 = 45 Percent